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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Summary

The present report provides an analysis of the progress in implementation of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. It is based on reports from States, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has played a pivotal role in the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, from the proclamation of the Decade to the preparation of the objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade. The work of the Forum's Bureau has been to function as the advisory body for the part of the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues dealing with the Decade as well as to promote the inclusion of the Decade in its annual agenda. At its seventh session, the Forum decided to discuss the Decade as one of the three review items on the agenda of the eighth session.

II. Role of the General Assembly

2. On 20 December 2004, in resolution 59/174, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 1 January 2005. In the same resolution, the Assembly noted the achievements of the first Decade, including the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the contributions made by the Permanent Forum, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. It also noted the deep concern expressed by the Commission about the precarious economic and social situation that indigenous peoples continued to endure in many parts of the world in comparison to the overall population and the persistence of grave violations of their human rights, and the Commission's reaffirmation of the urgent need to recognize, promote and protect more effectively their rights and freedoms.

3. The General Assembly also recalled its expectation, expressed in resolution 49/214, of achieving the adoption of a declaration on indigenous rights within the International Decade and recognized the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Decade and the need for adequate financial support from the international community.

4. The General Assembly decided that the goal of the Second International Decade should be the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities (resolution 59/174). The theme of the Second Decade is "Partnership for action and dignity".

5. In accordance with the General Assembly's request in the same resolution, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs was appointed as the Coordinator for the Second Decade.

6. In resolution 59/174, the General Assembly also appealed to the specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to take special account of the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and in their programming; requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Second Decade, which to all juridical purposes and effects should be set up and

should discharge its functions as a successor to the already existing Voluntary Fund established for the first Decade; urged Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the Second Decade established by the Secretary-General, and invited indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise; decided to continue observing in New York, Geneva and other offices of the United Nations every year during the Second Decade the International Day of Indigenous People, to request the Secretary-General to support the observance of the Day from within existing resources, and to encourage Governments to observe the Day at national level; and requested the Secretary-General to give all the assistance necessary to ensure the success of the Second Decade.

7. In February 2005, the Coordinator for the Second Decade invited States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide input towards a programme of action for the Second Decade. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held a discussion on the topic during its fourth session in May 2005 and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held a discussion during its twenty-third session in July 2005. Eleven States, 16 United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as 22 indigenous peoples' organizations, provided inputs for the Programme of Action.

8. The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[1] was adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2005 (resolution 60/142) as a guideline for action during the Decade. It relies on five key objectives which cut across the various areas of the goal for the Decade established by the General Assembly, namely, strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.

9. The five objectives for the Decade are:

- Promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects
- Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent
- Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples
- Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, and particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth
- Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

[1] A/60/270, sect. II.

10. The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade was launched at a special event held at the opening of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum in the General Assembly Hall in 2006. The event was co-chaired by the Coordinator for the Second Decade and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum.

11. The General Assembly annually discusses the Second Decade under the item entitled "Indigenous issues". At its sixty-third session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and mechanisms and other stakeholders, including indigenous organizations, to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a midterm assessment report that evaluates progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade (resolution 63/161).

III. Progress in the implementation of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

12. One of the most historic achievements of the Second International Decade has been the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on 13 September 2007 (resolution 61/295, annex). The Declaration was the result of more than two decades of consultation and dialogue among Governments and indigenous peoples from all regions and is a major victory in the long history of the United Nations developing international human rights standards.

13. Under article 42 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States are expected to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

14. At its fifth session in 2006, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues requested the Coordinator for the Second International Decade to provide an annual report on the implementation of the Decade. At its annual reporting to the Permanent Forum, the secretariat of the Forum presents updates based on information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and States (see E/C.19/2006/8, E/C.19/2007/9 and E/C.19/2008/8).

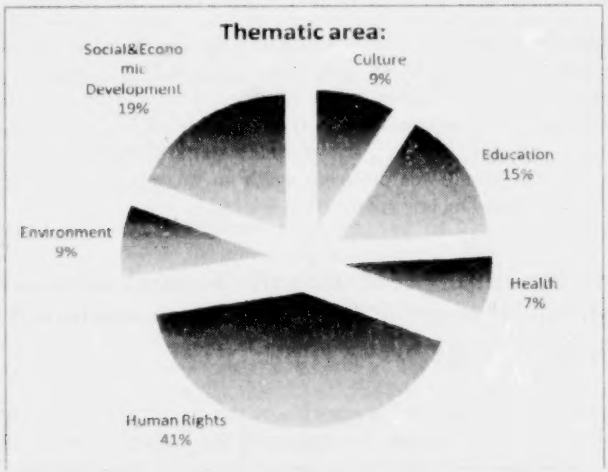
Support for activities implemented under the Second International Decade

15. Each year, the Permanent Forum as well as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat appeal to Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues for the implementation of the Second International Decade (see E/2008/43). The Trust Fund is the financial mechanism to support activities related to the Second Decade and relies entirely on voluntary contributions.[2]

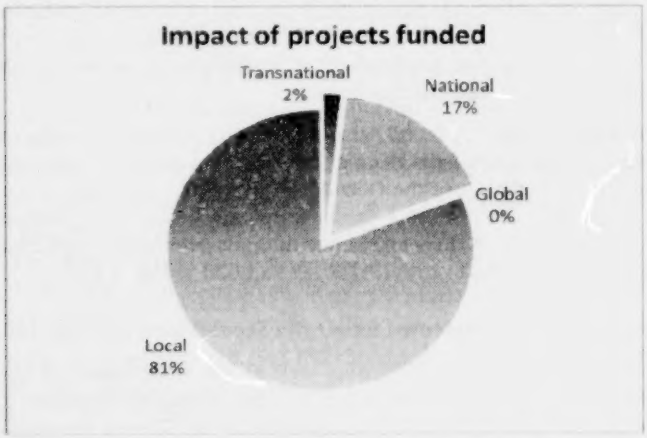
16. The small grants programme under the Trust Fund is perceived as an important contribution to capacity-building and empowerment of indigenous peoples'

[2] Donors to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues specifically earmarking contributions for the Second Decade are: Algeria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru and Suriname.

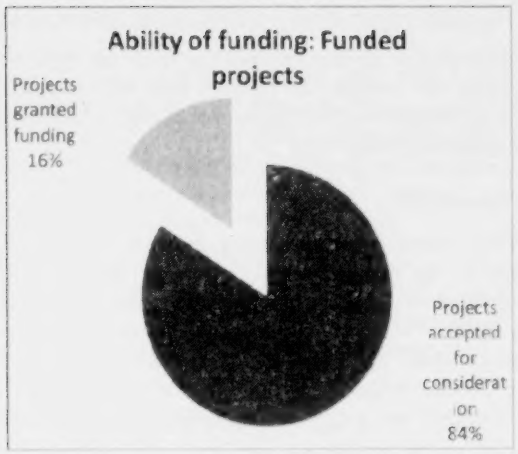
communities and organizations in order to develop their own processes for engaging in local and national policies.



17. From 2006 to 2008, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues granted a total of 58 projects. The projects have mostly been in the areas of social and economic development and human rights (a total of 60 per cent of the projects).



18. The target population in 54 per cent of the projects has been the indigenous population in general, while 18 per cent focused specifically on women and 23 per cent on youth. The projects have mainly been implemented with a local focus (81 per cent), with a majority in the rural areas (63 per cent). It is clear that continued contributions to the Trust Fund are highly desirable, taking into consideration the high demand established by the many project proposals. In the dialogue of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat with donors and international society, the importance of the grass-roots projects supported under the Second Decade is underlined.



19. Out of the 365 projects that were reviewed by the Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, acting as the Advisory Group, only 58 projects in the amount of $566,101 could be approved owing to limited resources.

Awareness-raising

20. At its fourth session in 2005, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invited the Coordinator for the Second Decade and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to initiate the awareness-raising campaign of the Second International Decade (E/2005/43, chap. I, para. 142). In response, the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, produced information material on the Second Decade, including a poster and a brochure outlining the theme, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade.

21. The Department of Public Information also provides assistance with the organization and promotion of the annual commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at United Nations Headquarters organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in cooperation with the NGO Committee for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In 2008 the theme of reconciliation was highlighted in a panel discussion. The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations organized a screening of the film *The Apology* dealing with the Australian Government's formal apology to indigenous peoples who were removed from their families as part of the State policy known as the "Stolen Generations".

22. The United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City has been involved in a project to translate and disseminate the Declaration into indigenous languages, and the United Nations Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro produced a Portuguese version of the Declaration as well as a "Frequently Asked Questions" fact sheet about the Declaration in 2008. Other activities for the International Day of the World's Indigenous People included an exhibition in Brazzaville, a press conference with representatives from the United Nations and indigenous peoples' organizations

in Bogotá, and the development of a special web page by the United Nations Information Centre in Lima (http://www.uniclima.org.pe/index1.htm).

23. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum is in the process of developing a practical resource kit for indigenous peoples and their organizations as well as national and local authorities on the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second International Decade.

Activities at the State level

24. In the written information submitted annually by Member States to the Permanent Forum, it is generally not specified whether the various policy, legislative or programmatic actions taken at the national level may be within the framework of the Second International Decade. They might, however, be inspired by the Decade's broad goal, objectives and Programme of Action. The midterm assessment of the Decade called for by the General Assembly for 2010 will provide an opportunity to Governments to submit specific and comprehensive information.

25. In 2006, as a contribution to the Second International Decade, Denmark and Greenland invited the Permanent Forum to hold a special meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, on the subject of "Partnership Visions for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People". The report of that meeting was submitted to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session (E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2).

26. At its seventh session in 2008, Bolivia informed the Forum that it had taken measures to incorporate the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade actively into national policymaking with the creation of a national action plan which complied with the goal and objectives of the Second Decade (see E/C.19/2008/5/Add.3).

Other initiatives under the Second International Decade

27. In 2006, the Coordinator for the Second Decade placed the subject of the Second Decade on the agenda of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for discussion and action. As a result, UNDG decided to transmit the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade to all United Nations country teams so that they could integrate it in their work. In addition, the Group decided to launch a comprehensive effort for the systematic integration of indigenous issues in the field by initiating the elaboration of guidelines to the country teams as well as of an action plan that would enhance their capacity in that area. This important initiative, inspired by the impetus of the Second Decade, resulted in the adoption, on 1 February 2008, of the UNDG "Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues" for United Nations country teams as well as the adoption, in July 2008, of an action plan for the rolling-out of these Guidelines (http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=270). The support of the Inter-Agency Support Group in these processes has been invaluable.

28. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has taken the initiative to adopt a Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, bringing together the relevant Divisions of the Department (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html).

29. As a direct response to the recommendation in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade to develop cooperation with the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Communities in Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) organized a meeting of experts on indigenous peoples and the implementation of the Second Decade in Brazzaville in November 2007. The recommendations from the meeting provide a framework for the development of a plan of action to be implemented by the United Nations system and other stakeholders for the African region (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.14).

30. During the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, the International Fund for Agricultural Development reported that, within the context of the Decade, it had started a process to develop its own principles of engagement with indigenous peoples, in order to comply with the Permanent Forum's recommendations (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.3).

31. As an agency traditionally engaged in indigenous issues, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in 2006 held several activities targeting indigenous peoples, inspired by the Decade. In October 2006, it co-sponsored a special indigenous peoples' session at the World Congress on Communication for Development, which was held in Rome. ILO also engages in capacity-building on indigenous peoples' issues at the national level in countries such as Cameroon, Cambodia, Honduras and Nepal (see E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11).

32. Within the context of the Decade, training programmes of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have incorporated a specific focus on indigenous peoples in the areas of conflict resolution, economic and social development, health, human rights, environment and culture. UNITAR has pledged to engage indigenous peoples in more of its activities (see E/C.19/2008/4).

33. Projects of the United Nations Environment Programme in the polar area have responded to the objectives and recommendations made in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade by focusing on the issue of climate change and management of the environmental and social impact of climate change (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.12).

34. In the Latin American context, the United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with OHCHR and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, organized a regional meeting focusing on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Second Decade. At the meeting held in Quito in 2007, a joint plan of action for strengthening the collaboration in regard to the Declaration and the Second Decade was discussed. The meeting was attended by 11 representatives of regional United Nations agencies. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting were presented at the United Nations Regional Directors' meeting held in Chile in November 2008 (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1).

IV. Implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the Second International Decade

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2005 to 2008 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and status of implementation

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
Fourth session (E/2005/43)	142	Initiation of an awareness-raising campaign related to the Second International Decade.	Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Public Information, Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Ongoing implementation**
	143	The Forum recommends that the Coordinator of the Second International Decade consult with the Permanent Forum regarding the preparation of the draft Plan of Action for the Second Decade.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Action completed**
	144	The Forum recommends the establishment of national committees for the Decade.	Governments/States
Fifth session (E/2006/43)	68	The Forum recommends the adoption of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.	Human Rights Council **Action completed**
	128	Request for an annual report by the Coordinator for the Second International Decade.	The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Ongoing implementation**
	136	The Forum recommends elaborations of strategies and action plans for communications/awareness-raising related to the promotion of the Second International Decade.	Governments, United Nations system, indigenous people's organizations **Ongoing implementation**

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
Sixth session (E/2007/43)	82	The Permanent Forum calls upon States that have created special national committees for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to cooperate more effectively with it, and would welcome invitations to attend activities of such national committees. The Permanent Forum encourages those States that have not yet done so to establish national committees for the Decade.	Governments/States
	146	The Forum calls for contributions to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues.	Donor agencies, United Nations system/United Nations agencies and Governments/States **Ongoing implementation**
Seventh session (E/2008/43)	103	The Forum encourages the United Nations system to support the Guidelines with a programme of action and calls upon the donor community to provide resources to that effect. The Forum also calls upon the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to review and revise the Guidelines in the light of the adoption of the Declaration.	United Nations system, Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues **Ongoing implementation**
	104	The Forum therefore strongly appeals to all States, the United Nations system, foundations and other donors to make generous contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the Second International Decade.	States, United Nations system, Foundations **Ongoing implementation**

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
	140	The Permanent Forum recommends that intergovernmental organizations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Ibero-American Summit, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, establish a working group to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.	Intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples

35. The above table provides an overview of the Permanent Forum's recommendations on the Decade as well as the status of their implementation, while section III of this report describes specific actions in that regard.

V. Conclusion

36. The Plan of Action for the Second International Decade was developed with wide input from the United Nations system, States and indigenous peoples' organizations. It contains recommendations for action at the international, regional and national levels. United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies, States, civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations are, in various ways, implementing targeted activities and programmes as part of the Second Decade.

37. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has not received a critical enough mass of responses regarding the Decade in order to be able to ascertain all progress made in the implementation of the Decade.

38. In their reports to the Permanent Forum, most organizations and States pointed out in general that, although they had not undertaken specific activities under the Decade's framework, their overall work followed the spirit of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade. An analysis of the responses received also indicates that the challenges various actors faced in terms of implementation were linked to the limited human and financial resources. It should be pointed out that the governmental and intergovernmental sectors, indigenous peoples and their communities and organizations as well as other parts of civil society have been invited and challenged by the international community to implement: (a) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (b) the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, (c) the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade, and (d) the recommendations of other international mechanisms related to indigenous peoples' issues. It is important to consider, however, that the above-mentioned frameworks and the Decade are complementary and are not necessarily about providing more resources, but rather about changing the way of delivering programmes, especially in terms of promoting non-discrimination and inclusion, full

and effective participation of indigenous peoples, programmes that are culturally appropriate as well as establishing strong monitoring mechanisms (Objectives (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) of the Decade).

39. While the mid-Decade review in 2010 called for by the General Assembly will give the opportunity to all concerned to renew their commitment to the Decade, take relevant actions and provide comprehensive inputs on the implementation of the Decade, it should be pointed out that at least two clear broad outcomes have been catalysed during the first years of the Decade: (a) an increased awareness of indigenous issues and increased involvement of Member States, United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in indigenous issues, including at the field level; and (b) the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

40. **At this important juncture of the Decade's vision and of the efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals, it is recommended that States, indigenous peoples and the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society undertake initiatives inspired by the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second International Decade, including financial support to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. It is also recommended that reporting of all concerned on progress in the implementation of the Decade be enhanced, including on the part of indigenous peoples and their organizations.**

Annex

List of documents

Centro de Información de las Naciones Unidas para el Perú
http://www.uniclima.org.pe/index1.htm

Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html

General Assembly resolution 59/174, "Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples", 20 December 2004

General Assembly resolution 60/142, "Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", 16 December 2005

General Assembly resolution 63/161, "Indigenous issues", 18 December 2008

Information received from Governments: the Government of Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government. Fifth session of the Permanent Forum (2006), E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2

Information received from Governments: Bolivia. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/5/Add.3

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: International Labour Organization. Sixth session of the Permanent Forum (2007), E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Children's Fund. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Environment Programme. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.12

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.14

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: International Fund for Agricultural Development. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.3

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4

Ongoing priorities and themes, note by secretariat of the Permanent Forum, E/C.19/2006/8

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the fourth session (16-27 May 2005), E/2005/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the fifth session (15-26 May 2006), E/2006/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the sixth session (14-25 May 2007), E/2007/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the seventh session (21 April-2 May 2008), E/ 2008/43

Report of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on ongoing priorities and themes, E/C.19/2007/9

Report of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on ongoing priorities and themes, E/C.19/2008/8

United Nations Development Group: Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=270